

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Itawamba Community College



Grantee: Itawamba Community College

Industry Focus: Healthcare, Nursing

Key Partners: East Mississippi Community College, Northeast Mississippi Community College, Mississippi Partnership Local Workforce Investment Area, Northeast Mississippi Regional Education Service Agency, Mississippi State University – Research Curriculum Unit, State Board of Community and Junior Colleges, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, Mississippi Hospital Associations, Mississippi Office of Nursing Workforce, The Alliance, and the Community Development Foundation

Grant Amount: \$1,951,138

Leveraged Amount: \$3,920,156

Location of Grant Activities: Thirty-five counties in northeast Mississippi, west Alabama, and southern Tennessee

Challenge: The Mississippi Department of Employment Security Labor Market Information forecasts that northeastern Mississippi will need to add approximately 1,000 Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA), 500 Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN), and 2,000 Registered Nurses (RN) to the workforce by 2012 to meet regional demand.

Addressing the Challenge: Itawamba will increase the supply of nurses and faculty members available to meet the healthcare needs of residents of rural northeastern Mississippi. The project would institute the following training and capacity building activities: 1) adding CNA programs at each community college; 2) initiating bridge programs at each community college for CNA, LPN and RN programs; 3) creating scholarship funds for promising LPN students to earn RN degrees and for nurses with Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees to earn master's degrees; and 4) introducing middle and high school students to these training opportunities and careers.

Projected Outcomes:

- At least 113 students will earn CNA licensure annually during the program
- At least 138 students at the three community colleges will complete the LPN programs annually as compared to the previous average of 83 graduates annually
- At least 185 students at the three community colleges will complete the LPN programs annually
- At least 50 percent of the 75 students who attend the Summer Health Academy each year will enter training programs for health care professionals
- At least 80 percent of LPN's awarded scholarships will earn RN degrees
- 100 percent of BSN's awarded scholarships annually will earn MSN's and assume faculty positions at one of the three community colleges

